

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD:
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
AID/OPA/PP:GWALLACE(PHONE)
NEA/PAB:DARCHARD(PHONE)
HA/ORM:GMETSON(SUBS)
-----099892 080208Z /70

R 071825Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY DACCA

UNCLAS STATE 144065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAID, BG, BM

SUBJECT: MUSLIMS FROM BURMA IN BANGLADESH

1. TEXT OF AID JUNE 5 PRESS RELEASE ENTITLED "UNITED STATES HELP FOR MUSLIMS FROM BURMA IN BANGLADESH" FOLLOWS BELOW.

2. QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDING \$2,638,000 WORTH OF RELIEF FOOD AND A CASH GRANT OF \$500,000 TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH COPE WITH AN INFLUX OF 150,000 MUSLIMS FROM NEIGHBORING BURMA.

AN APPEAL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) SAID SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND WATER ARE INADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH THE MUSLIMS, ALMOST HALF OF WHOM
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ARE UNDER 15 YEARS OLD.

LARGE NUMBERS ARE SUFFERING FROM EXPOSURE, DYSENTERY AND MALARIA. SEVERAL HUNDRED HAVE DIED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD BEING SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES

CONSISTS OF 2,880 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT, 2,880 TONS OF RICE
AND 2,000 METRIC TONS OF SOY-FORTIFIED SORGHUM. MUCH OF
THIS FOOD WILL BE SUPPLIED FROM STOCKS ALREADY IN

BANGLADESH WHERE THEY WERE BEING USED FOR FEEDING PROGRAMS.
THESE STOCKS WILL BE REPLENISHED.

THE UNITED STATES ACTED AFTER AMBASSADOR DAVID SCHNEIDER
PROCLAIMED THAT A STATE OF DISASTER EXISTED IN THE
CHITTAGONG DISTRICT OF BANGLADESH.

THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZED THE
PROVISION OF THE 7,780 TONS OF FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II
FOOD. TOGETHER WITH SUPPLIES FROM OTHER NATIONS THE FOOD
IS EXPECTED TO BE SUFFICIENT UNTIL DECEMBER.

THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

ALL THE RELIEF ACTIVITY IS BEING COORDINATED BY THE UNHCR
AT THE REQUEST OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT.

THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS AID NOW ARE BEING HOUSED IN NINE
TEMPORARY CAMPS IN THE CHITTAGONG DISTRICT. UNHCR
REPORTED THE REFUGEES TO BE ARRIVING AT THESE CAMPS AT
THE RATE OF 1,000 DAILY.
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END QUOTE.

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